DISTRICT OFFICES:

P.O. Box 858
202 HARLOW STREET
BANGOR, ME 04402
(207) 942-6935

157 MAIN STREET
LEWISTON, ME 04240
(207) 782-3704

445 MAIN STREET
PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769
(207) 764-1036

322 MAIN STREET
SUITE 103
MADAWASKA, ME 04756
(207) 728-6160

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
SECOND DISTRICT, MAINE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

AT-LARGE WHIP

1740 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6306
(202) 225-0488 TDD
www.house.gov/baldacci
baldacci@me02.house.gov

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–1902

01·348

November 1, 2001

RECEIVED

JUN 1 8 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you regarding the pending merger of EchoStar Communications Corporation and DirecTV.

As a representative of a state that has a large rural population, I am very concerned about the potential impact the merger could have on my constituents. Though the proponents of the proposal believe that the merger would boost competition in the overall pay TV market; there are legitimate concerns that this merger could in fact adversely impact rural subscribers. The loss of competition within the satellite provider industry could result in rural customers facing increased service costs without the possibility of seeking an alternative service provider. If the merger is allowed, safeguards must be put in place to make certain that rural areas are not negatively affected.

As you proceed with your review of the merger, I urge you to insure that rural customers are protected and that the possibility of other television providers entering the market in the future is not jeopardized.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

John E. Baldacci
Member of Congress

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE